# Expert Review Panel's Comments

The winners of the Alexander Henderson and Don Grant Awards were announced Sunday, May 25, 2025, during the AIGS's annual and awards ceremony. The 2024 Alexander Henderson Award was awarded to "The Hutchings Family A Journey from Devon to the Wimmera," authored by David Hutchings, Elizabeth Bell, Murray Hutchings, Tim Hutchings. Finalist John Guest's Family History in 3 Volumes and Supplementary Book" was recognised as a distinct genre and received high commendation from the panel for being an exceptional academic study, referred to by the expert panel of examiners as a "magnus opus." Comments from the expert panel of reviewers regarding John Guest's work have been extracted from the full report and public presentation, which is attached.

**4th June 2025**

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# EXPERT REVIEW OF THE GUEST FAMILY HISTORY (3 VOLUMES)

## Panel Members

**Dr Donald Stuart Garden**, PhD, OAM FFAHS FRHSV, Historian, University of Melbourne, Ret., author and Immediate Past President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and of the Federation of Australian Historical societies.

**Gail White**, is President of Family History Connections (Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies), and the former Information Services Librarian at Eastern Regional Libraries, a family historian and author of several books on her own families.

**Lesley Berry**, who has been involved in family history for over fifty years, holds a Diploma in Family History from the University of Tasmania and is a teacher of family history research and resources.

## Guest Family History in 3 Volumes

### John Guest

The author has been many years researching his family, resulting in a three-volume considered to be '*magnus opus'*. The first volume covers the paternal line, the second the maternal line, and the third is a supplementary volume. John has gone to great lengths to ensure that his work is correct and his lines of ancestry are authenticated.

His paternal line has been traced back to medieval Tewkesbury in England. His maternal line goes back to earlier than 1066 in England and Scotland. The supplement adds further confirmation of his family's shared ancient ancestry in Britain.

***"Magnus Opus"***

**John Guest's three-volume series, along with its supplementary book, is impressive in both its evidence, scope and precision, offering thorough evidence of a continuous account of lineage covering almost a thousand years, and a similar studied has not been seen before by any of the expert reviewers.**

The 3 volumes and its supplementary book are to be added as a valuable extensive collection of genealogical history books in the AIGS Resource Centre at Blackburn, Victoria, where they will be made available to members and others in person.